

AGENDA
CITY OF AUBURN - TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 21, 2011
8:30 A.M. @ City Hall Conference Room 10

Traffic Committee Members

Valerie Harris, Chair
Bill Kirby, Mayor
Robert Richardson, City Mgr
Bernie Schroeder, Dir. Of Public Works
Fred Vitas, Planning Commission
Lisa Worthington, Planning Alternate

1. **Public Comment:**
2. **Approval of March 15, 2011. April 19, 2011 Minutes**

ACTION ITEMS:

3. **None**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Streetscape update –**
Bernie Schroeder
5. **Merry Knoll Parking update -**
Chief Harris
6. **Stop Sign at 550 High Street**
Tita Fowler – PaleoResource Consultants – 885-9696
7. **Magnolia Avenue between Cherry & Hillmont speeding issues**
Sally Dawley – 888-0340

OBTA AGENDA ITEMS PENDING PER FINALIZATION OF PARKING/TRAFFIC STUDY:

Traffic Study – AD HOC COMMITTEE handling:

MINUTES
CITY OF AUBURN - TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 15, 2011
8:30 A.M. @ City Hall Conference Room 10

Traffic Committee Members

Valerie Harris, Chief of Police - Present
Robert Richardson, City Mgr
Bernie Schroeder, Dir. Of Public Works - Present
Fred Vitas, Planning Commission
Lisa Worthington, Planning Alternate

Bill Kirby, Mayor
Mike Holmes, City Council Member - Present

1. **Public Comment:**
None
2. **Approval of August 17, 2010 Minutes –**
Carried over to next meeting as there was not enough for a quorum.

ACTION ITEMS:

3. **None**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Streetscape update –**
Bernie Schroeder- Streetscape Phase I is complete. We're finishing some of the touches from the SHAAC committee items i.e. pavers and signage. The Endurance Interpretive sign was placed last week but it's not to our satisfaction so we're thinking of moving to a different place. Streetscape Phase II is currently being advertised. We had a pre-bid last week and had 12 contractors so there's a lot of interest in the project. We intend on moving forward with acquiring some property for the underground utilities equipment location.

They plan on moving forward and avoiding the major construction as it moves forward when the Amgen Tour comes to town. Chief Harris asked if the construction would potentially start before May 17th, when the Amgen Tour will be here. Schroeder said it could but ordering street lights, things that have a high lead time, but actual excavation would not interfere. We don't want any obstacles for the Amgen riders.

Chief Harris said she is not aware of collisions related to any of the new design. Nor is she getting complaints. She thinks there were some visual concerns initially but all is going well. Schroeder said there were two major complaints that

we received at the onset. One was that the bollards were in the wrong location and that we removed a parking spot. A truck took care of one of the bollards so we moved it back a little more. We're finding that people are getting to maneuver correctly through town.

Also, the other big complaint was about the signal itself. At first we thought we were going to have to replace the cabinet. The microchip in the controller was triggering pedestrians that weren't there. That was replaced about a week and a half ago. It had been giving a false reading. The intent was to slow traffic and it has succeeded in doing that. A lot of the features in the Streetscape are designed to do that.

Schroeder said that Phase II is really a take off of Phase I. Our goal is so that you would never know where Phase I ended and Phase II begins. It will have a good transition i.e. same trees, streetlights, trash cans, interpretive signs.

Chief Harris said on another note, when she had been to Disneyland recently she noticed the Downtown Disney town area that has a hotel, restaurants, shops, etc. They had an area surrounded by wrought iron railing where inside, there is a seating and service bar area where people could have alcoholic beverages. It was big enough that people could pass through. How and where in our Streetscape area could we accommodate having alcohol consumption for special events? Would we be able to make it big enough for people to pass through but have gates that we may be able to close it off? It would be nice to see how much something like that would cost.

Schroeder said there could be sleeves in the concrete to install the fencing and gates. She said she would inquire to the cost of putting something like this in.

Mike Holmes said he has heard comments about the Streetscape area being too cluttered i.e. too many pedestals. He asked if a fencing structure could be as a temporary structure whereby it could be taken out after a special event. It may seem too confining.

Chief Harris said it could be used as a temporary structure; otherwise it would afford a regular seating area where a group could be served depending on Alcohol Beverage Control requirements. However, we would not need to check on that at this time.

Schroeder said that she gets an equal amount of feedback that people tell her it's perfect because you can have a lot of people that can mingle but they feel comfortable. If you open it up like an auditorium or an open area there tends not be the ability to huddle around in certain areas. People feel like it's like their backyard patio.

Mike Holmes commented that the Placer County Performing Arts Center would like to have one ADA parking spot.

5. College Way Permit Parking

Chief Harris said that because the police volunteers are diligent in doing the parking enforcement they have had a lot of issues with kids parking, where the

signage is and where they are enforcing is all the way down College Way to Knoll which is front of the care home. The issue is that the care home can have some folks come visit and in one case the person was in their last days or extremely ill so the visitors stayed longer and was cited. The police department ended up giving a placard to the care home to put in a vehicle that was there for that purpose. They have not received any further complaints on that issue.

Mike Holmes said he was visiting a friend at the care home. He had to leave before he was cited. Another friend was there and overstayed the time limitation and was cited. He did go to the police department and it was dismissed. Holmes suggested that because a lot of the care home residents have elderly visitors, that the home be given a couple cards for visitors to put on their dashboards showing that they are visiting there.

Schroeder asked if permits were issued and if so, were they mostly issued to teachers. Chief Harris said they do issue permits for that area; residents get so many, students get so many but mostly to teachers. A placard doesn't help an elderly visitor to the care home if they have a distance to walk. She said it seems to be working well. Schroeder said to let her know if they need additional signage. Chief Harris said there was some comment about putting a sign all the way down to Knoll so that people would know that they were in the enforceable zone. We need to ask if that's still an issue.

Chief Harris said the issue is the same on E. Placer Street and Almond Street. There is a sign saying "Permit Parking" but when you go over the crest people don't know they are still in the enforcement zone. She asked Schroeder to look at putting an additional sign there. We will not make any modifications to the College Way parking permits at this time.

6. Crosswalk on Fulweiler Avenue

Request to install crosswalk near Sterling Ave – Area resident Kirk (885-2276)
Bernie Schroeder showed an aerial map of the location. There was a crosswalk at Sterling crossing Fulweiler up until we did the street overlay. We did not replace it because it is an uncontrolled intersection. It gives people a false sense of security because despite the congestion that can occur there, they feel they can walk safely across the street. The determination was not to replace it.

Kirk wants the crosswalk replaced because people have to walk either to Village Lane or down to Highway 49 where there isn't enough sidewalk. In his mind people cross there anyway so he wants the crosswalk back.

There was some discussion about the area at Fulweiler and Highway 49. Schroeder said there is just curb and gutter. There is no sidewalk. Mike Holmes said there is a right turn only lane. However, we do have similar crosswalks in other areas of town i.e. High St. near the Eideweiss Restaurant.

Chief Harris said this area of Fulweiler has too much going on and makes a crosswalk there dangerous. It makes more sense to move it up a little further where it is a safer place to cross.

Schroeder said that people blocked the crosswalk that was there, even though there was signage saying not to block the intersection of Fulweiler and Sterling. If we moved the crosswalk up a little further (between the Staples center drive-ways) the sidewalk would need to be cut for ADA requirements. If we put in the yellow material, it is very expensive.

Chief Harris said she will put this issue out to a couple officers to see what they say. If she gets an absolute opinion she feels it would be good to go forth with the project. Holmes and Schroeder agreed but that the expense would need to be looked at

7. Stop Signs at Katherine Way, Camjen Lane and Perkins Way

Brad Kearns requested stop signs be installed due to speeding at the “Y” intersection and being a blind corner.

Schroeder said this issue was looked at in 2006. Portions of Placer County do not have signs at all intersections. Typically the city does not have stop signs at all intersections if it’s not warranted. There was a barricade installed and the speed limit was put at 15 mph. The barricade is gone now but the speed limit is the same.

Chief Harris said there are busy times; in the morning and the afternoon when people are dropping off and picking up their children at the school yard and also in the summer when there are activities going on. Maybe we should ask the school if they are getting complaints. We have not had any complaints.

The types of issues we’ve had has been Maidu Drive with people speeding or people not abiding by the signage inside the school yard; dropping kids off/picking kids up blocking the bus zone. We will have an officer contact the school to see they have any complaints.

8. Merry Knoll Parking

Kathleen Hackley requests discussion on parking issue along roadway turnout near the P. G. & E. pond.

Chief Harris explained that Ms. Hackley said she drives from Nevada Street up Merry Knoll to the location in question on her way to see her mother. Just as you get past the city limits on the bend people park their cars along the road by the fenced gate and walk in to the pond. Ms. Hackley would like No Parking signs along that portion of road. She inquired about the idea of someone putting in a parking area near that location. Chief Harris was not aware of anything going on there.

Bernie Schroeder, as well, had not heard anything. She will go out there and measure the road right-of-way and if it is not adequate it should be no parking.

Chief Harris said she will follow up with P. G. & E. to see if they have any plan for parking in that area.

9. Lincoln Way - Concerns for parking signage “Curb your wheels”

Dan Crenshaw

Chief Harris said Mr. Crenshaw wrote a letter addressing areas with “Curb your wheels” signage. There is a sign on Harrison Street that says “No Parallel Parking” in an area that you cannot parallel park because of the spacing. We also put the “Curb your wheels” sign. She is not sure if there may have been a sign up before and then changed the markings in some way.

The other item in his letter was lighting in a residential area. Chief Harris forwarded the item to Lee Thorpe in Public Works because that is a separate issue. Bernie Schroeder said the light would be taken care of, but that the light may have been taken out because it shown directly into the resident’s bedroom.

OBTA AGENDA ITEMS PENDING PER FINALIZATION OF PARKING/TRAFFIC STUDY:

Traffic Study – AD HOC COMMITTEE handling:

Next Traffic Committee Meeting – 4/19/11

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Bauer

MINUTES
CITY OF AUBURN - TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 19, 2011
8:30 A.M. @ City Hall Conference Room 10

Traffic Committee Members

Valerie Harris, Chair
Robert Richardson, City Mgr
Bernie Schroeder, Dir. Of Public Works
Fred Vitas, Planning Commission
Lisa Worthington, Planning Alternate

Bill Kirby, Mayor

1. **Public Comment**
None
2. **Approval of August 17, 2010 Minutes**
M/Schroeder S/Harris Minutes Approved

ACTION ITEMS:

3. **None**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Lewis Street Parking, etc –**
Business and property owner, Frank Lewis addressed the committee. He commented that there are already some paid spaces in Old Town. He has parking spaces on Jacobs Lane and is interested in pursuing the possibility of paid parking. She told Mr. Lewis that the Planning Department would be the lead on this item.

Chief Harris said she would have some thoughts but deferred to Bernie Schroeder regarding how the Old Town parking came about and how it's working out.

Schroeder said she believed the paid parking was initiated through the Planning Department. It is a little unusual in that you have to market it correctly and know how to adequately notify the vehicle owners of the enforcement of it.

Mr. Lewis said he may not pursue it but there are people parking there that shouldn't be. It is convenient for people shopping; its downtown and that's partly why he bought the building. It is convenient for his clients. It's been unfortunate that he has had to run people off. He feels that if it were paid it would be a little more serious; maybe people would think twice about parking there. For example, people with trucks and trailers will take up 4 spaces. He has a total of 8 spaces.

It was suggested that Mr. Lewis get in touch with Brian Hayes in Old Town to see how he went about getting his parking lot there designated private paid parking. At that point he may find out that either he is more encouraged to get his lot a paid lot. or decide against it. If he decides to pursue it, get in touch with Bernie Schroeder and the Chief to help in the process.

Mr. Lewis noted that during high traffic periods on Lewis Street cars block the driveway to his parking lot. He asked if there was a possibility to put a "Keep Clear" on the pavement so people can enter his driveway.

Chief Harris' concern was that if cars stop at the "Keep Clear" as if it were a stop sign, they might get rear-ended by an approaching vehicle from behind. Also, she asked how frequent larger vehicles use Jacobs Lane. Mr. Lewis answered hardly ever. She asked if it would only be the westbound traffic. It was suggested a observation study be done.

Mr. Lewis third item of concern is the "One Way" arrow on Linden was not re-installed after the Streetscape project was completed. He said there are several cars and trucks going the wrong way. Fortunately, there haven't been incidences as yet. He has been seeing high school traffic going the wrong way in the afternoon at a good rate of speed to avoid the signal light at Lewis. The "One Way" sign is also gone.

There was discussion as to where to put the sign? Commissioner Vitas suggested one place could be on the telephone pole. Schroeder said they could re-sign it. She will work directly with Mr. Lewis to figure the best location for the sign.

5. Crosswalk on Fulweiler Avenue update –

Bernie Schroeder said Cal Trans, in widening Hwy 49 took out the ability to cross from the southerly side of the street at that intersection. There is a crosswalk from the northerly side of Fulweiler Avenue across Hwy 49 to Elm Avenue.

The section of Fulweiler between Sterling Ave. and Hwy 49 has no sidewalk.

The crosswalk on Fulweiler Avenue at the intersection of Sterling Ave. was taken out when the street was repaved. It was not put back in because it was in a very dangerous place being very close to the intersection of Hwy 49 and Fulweiler Ave.

Commissioner Vitas commented that it would be a city liability if people were injured in the crosswalk if it were put back in.

If the crosswalk is put back in the original location it will give a false sense of safety because it gets very congested. Chief Harris said she received reports back from a couple officers that kids were not crossing illegally. It appears that transient people going to Salvation Army are crossing illegally. If the sidewalk were moved up the street between Sterling Ave. and Village Lane she feels that people will still cross illegally.

Bernie Schroeder said that if the crosswalk was put back in it would need to have ADA ramps. The cost would depend on the material used; Thermoplastic and ADA ramps would run approximately \$5,000.

It was the consensus that it be left status quo at this time. Ultimately down the road the crosswalk would probably be put back in. If it seemed to be a greater issue or If we were to have more than this one complaint we would delve further into it.

Harris moved to leave status quo / Schroeder seconded

6. Stop Signs at Katherine Way, Camjen Lane and Perkins Way update -

Chief Harris commented that this item was brought to the Traffic Committee in 2006. It was a request for a stop sign for the corner of Camjen Lane & Katherine Way.

It is the back side of Skyridge School. We have a number of folks that drop their children off at that access point, then turn around and go back down. Katherine Way turns into Perkins making it a thoroughfare. Then it slopes down.

Chief Harris said she thought It may not be so much of a speeding problem as a sight problem or driver distraction. It may be obscured; it may be kids stepping off of sidewalks; kids crossing at the wrong point. The question is if we were going to put a stop sign, where would we put it.

Commissioner Vitas said he had driven the area. He said that if he was coming over the hill, he's going 15 – 20 mph, all of a sudden he has somebody there and it creates a problem. He might consider putting a sign of some sort on Camjen.

Bernie Schroeder said there was a traffic study done in the 90's before Camjen Lane was put in. It didn't acknowledge any sight distance problem with Katherine and Perkin. The problem starts because people it's an intersection where nobody knows who's needing to stop.

She suggested putting a stop sign on Camjen Lane. When the traffic study was done it was considered not necessary because of the amount of traffic at the time. Now a sign would tend to take away the confusion and wouldn't impede traffic having to stop.

Chief Harris said this is a better area of concern because if you have kids they may do a diagonal cross. That may be more dangerous than no stop sign.

Commissioner Vitas asked what if we had a crosswalk. Can they use them in residential areas? Schroeder commented that could be considered but it would be an expense. He said for the immediate solution a stop sign on Camjen could be in order. He said when he came down Katherine he didn't see any issue with blindness.

The speed limit in that area is 16 mph. Chief Harris said she in not aware of any complaints.

A motion was moved to install a stop sign on Camjen Lane at Katherine Way. Moved by Vitas / Seconded by Schroeder. Motion Approved.

7. Merry Knoll Parking update -

Chief Harris said she spoke with Kathleen. Hers is the only complaint received. The complaint being that cars park three and four deep at the edge of city limits where the fence ends at the PG & E Merry Knoll reservoir. They create a hazard.

Chief Harris said the complainant told her that she had heard that PG & E was going to install a parking lot at the location. She checked with PG & E regarding this. They have no plans to put one in.

This brings up the question of what easement area is ours and do we have an issue where we need to put "No Parking" signs. Then you would need enforcement. The question too, is does PG & E want people trespassing on private property.

Chief Harris said she will have an officer speak with PG & E to see if they are doing any enforcement; do they allow a lot of people to fish from their lake. We will do a follow-up on this item. We will verify how PG & E wants to work with us on this. It may also require asking some of the residents in the area what their comments would be on this issue.

8. Streetscape update –

Bernie Schroeder said there was a re-advertisement on the bid for Phase II. They received some very desirable quotes. They went to Council to implement a funding mechanism to award Phase II and start construction May 18th.

The numbers came out very well for the completion of fall schedule of work. It ended up being about \$60,000 less than our estimate. However, Redevelopment Funds have been partially committed to other projects that may be of higher priority to the Council. Some have been authorized; some haven't.

In the funding proposal, it incorporates whether the Council wants to move forward with, for example, the Procissi Parking Lot. There was an effort to pave it, make some improvements to street lighting making it look like a parking area. There is a dollar amount and we do have a bid for that. Monday the Council will have the opportunity to consider their options.

It looks very good for Streetscape Phase II because we structured it so that they could award the base bid, which is primarily the undergrounding of the electrical, all of the concrete work so the sidewalks have areas landscaping would go. We did add alternates, for example all the trees, so that if we didn't have the money we could do other items until we could secure the funding. If we were to award the entire project it may jeopardize the Council's ability to award some more projects.

Schroeder said she has had comments about the lighting in Central Square being too bright at night. She has solicited a bid to change out some of the lights to a more subdued lighting. There are some other trains of thought; for safety.

She is also presenting that to Council as an option for funding for Streetscape for changing that out. Schroeder said they are experimenting with alternating taking lights out.

Chief Harris people seemed to be comfortable and safe in Central Square. Commissioner Vitas if it was getting some of the E. Placer lot people frequenting the Square. Chief Harris said no; that they are in other areas.

OBTA AGENDA ITEMS PENDING PER FINALIZATION OF PARKING/TRAFFIC STUDY:

Traffic Study – AD HOC COMMITTEE handling:

Meeting adjourned at 9: 20 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Bauer

From: Tita Fowler [mailto:tita@paleoresource.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 9:52 AM
To: Bernie Schroeder; Carie Huff; Russell Koch; Megan Siren
Subject: Stop sign at 550 High Street

I apologize for contacting all of you if this is not something you deal with. There is a stop sign in front of our building at 550 High Street that is meant for traffic that is going into our parking lot, the thrift store, or fire station. Lately we have been noticing that cars in the right lane that are proceeding on to Lincoln Way (toward Auburn Ravine) are also stopping at this stop sign (not intended for them) causing a number of screeching tires and near misses. Cars travel fast along this stretch and we are concerned about this hazard. I am not sure if the stop sign has been tweaked causing this increase but we have been here for some time and not noticed this issue. That we notice, 3-5 cars stop at that spot thinking the stop sign is for them and we feel one incident would be one too many.

We are wondering if you could look into this. Thank you!

Concerned citizen,

Tita R. Fowler

PaleoResource Consultants
550 High Street, Suite 108
Auburn, CA 95603
530-885-9696 Ph
530-887-2274 Fax

From: Valerie Harris
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 9:27 AM
To: Linda Bauer; Bernie Schroeder
Subject: FW: Magnolia Ave between Cherry & Hillmont speeding issues

FYI – traffic committee request!

From: Chris Forman
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Aillene Cole
Cc: Victor Pecoraro; Valerie Harris
Subject: RE: Magnolia Ave between Cherry & Hillmont speeding issues

Ally,
I called Mrs. Dawley and left a message on her voice mail advising I would attempt additional enforcement in this area in the mornings as well as at lunch time at Placer. (FYI to Officers...School is out in a week or so) I also explained she would need to attend the traffic committee meeting and explain her concerns prior to any changes in signs in the area.
Chris

From: Aillene Cole
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 12:21 PM
To: Chris Forman
Subject: Magnolia Ave between Cherry & Hillmont speeding issues

Chris, Sally Dawley, 888-0340, was in and requesting a speed limit sign be placed on Magnolia between Cherry & Hillmont, and or a stop sign on Magnolia at Hillmont St. Sally says there are issues with speeders in the morning when people are taking children to school. Chief Harris asked me to send you an email and have you call Sally to discuss enforcement steps. Explain we don't use speed limit signs for enforcement steps. Chief suggested maybe you could put our signboard up there, or do some radar enforcement and let her know what steps we are taking to remedy the problem. If students are an issue, let her know we can work with the high school. Chief says to let her know she is welcome to attend the traffic committee when it meets, the 3rd Tuesday every other month. It is open to the public and is held in city hall at 8:30 am.

Thanks Chris,

Ally